

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended so that the bismaleimide compound represented by the formula (1) specifies that X or N has a substitution position of meta to that of another X or N that is bonded to the same benzene ring. This recitation is supported by the specification such as in the passage set forth on page 8 lines 15 to 18 and the Examples starting on page 26.

The metal laminates of the present invention can provide important advantages. As explained in the remarks of the prior response and in the paragraph bridging pages 24 and 25 of the specification, the metal laminates can provide high "solder heat resistance" with specific illustrations being set forth in Table 2 on page 35. The metal laminates of the present invention can also provide good adhesion as measured by peel strength with specific illustrations being set forth in Table 1 on page 35.

The Declaration Under 37 C.F.R. §1.132 being provided herewith demonstrates the improved peel strength that can be obtained by following the teachings of the present invention, particularly a layer of a resin composition obtained by compounding a bismaleimide compound in a polyamic acid and/or a polyimide with the bismaleimide compound being represented by the defined formula (1) and further specifying that X or N has a substitution position of meta to that of another X or N bonded to the same benzene ring. As may be seen from the Declaration, when one provides a metal laminate which includes the defined bismaleimide, a higher peel strength can be obtained compared to a similar laminate which does not include the defined bismaleimide with the recited meta-position.

Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art relied on previously by the Examiner cannot now be used to support a rejection of any of the claims. While

applicants maintain that the claims previously of record were patentable for the reasons provided during the course of prosecution, neither Yamaya et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,987,207, nor Matsuura et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,508,357, discloses or suggests the claimed metal laminates with the defined bismaleimide. Moreover, neither of these patents in any way recognizes the importance of the defined polymaleimide of formula (1) which specifies that X or N has a substitution position of meta to that of another X or N that is bonded to the same benzene ring in order to provide improved peel strength. Indeed, since Yamaya et al. does not relate to a metal laminate with the defined components, those of ordinary skill in the art would not expect the results that can be obtained in accordance with the present invention that are illustrated by the Declaration.

For the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully request favorable consideration based on the claims and evidence of record.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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